



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, WA 98101-3123

OFFICE OF
WATER AND WATERSHEDS

DEC 14 2018

Ms. Heather Bartlett
Water Quality Program Manager
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Re: Request for Clean Water Act section 401 extension on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for Washington federal hydroelectric generating facilities on the Lower Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers

Dear Ms. Bartlett:

The Environmental Protection Agency received the Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology) letter on December 7, 2018, requesting additional time for the Clean Water Act section 401 certification on preliminary draft NPDES permits for the Washington federal hydroelectric generating facilities on the Lower Columbia and Lower Snake Rivers. The letter also describes the uncertainty of pending actions that could affect the permits and requests that Ecology be given until February 1, 2019, to complete a Clean Water Act section 401 certification.

The EPA agrees that several processes are occurring that warrant additional time for the Clean Water Act section 401 certification from Ecology. Therefore, the EPA is granting Ecology's request for an extension until February 1, 2019.

Please do not hesitate to call me at (206) 553-1855, or have your staff contact Jenny Wu, of my staff, at (206) 553-6328 or by email at Wu.Jennifer@epa.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Angeli Clancy", is written over the typed name "Daniel D. Opalski".

Daniel D. Opalski *for*
Director

cc: Ms. Melissa Gildersleeve, Ecology
Mr. Vince McGowan, Ecology
Ms. Ellie Ott, Ecology